

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312  
Application No. 10/816,955  
Attorney Docket No. 042322  
Date Response Filed: May 2, 2007

### **REMARKS**

This is an Amendment after Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 and MPEP §714.16. No new matter has been added.

Applicants herein amend claim 21 to remove an inadvertently added word “minimum”. That is, claim 21 is amended to recite “a first interconnection layer buried in a first interconnection trench formed in the first inter-layer insulation film, whose ~~minimum~~ interconnection pitch is a first pitch...”

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment, and submit that the change is not substantial. That is, that above amendment, in accordance with MPEP §714.16: (1) is needed for proper disclosure or protection of the applicants' invention, and (2) requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent Office.

Applicants note that the limitation in claims 1-11 regarding the minimum interconnection pitch was not the reason for the claims' allowance. Rather, the apparent reason for the granting of allowance of the claims was the layering of the diffusion preventing film formed directly on upper surfaces of the second low dielectric constant film and the second interconnection layer, without any hydrophilic insulation film between the second low dielectric constant film and the diffusion preventing film.

Since all of the claims affected by the present amendment retain the above distinguishing feature of the allowed claims, Applicants submit that the removal of the term “minimum” does not give rise to substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent Office.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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